CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC TELEPHONE COMPANY
WAREHOUSE
1111 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington
District of Columbia

HAER DC-65
DC-65

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC TELEPHONE COMPANY WAREHOUSE

HAER No. DC-65

Location:	1111 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC
Present Owner:	In July 2008, National Public Radio closed on its purchase of the property from J Street Development.
Present Use:	Current plans call for demolishing a portion of the building. The remainder of the building will house National Public Radio's headquarters and newsroom, a museum focusing on Alexander Graham Bell and the telephone, and some retail.[1]
Significance Statement:	The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse is significant for its role in the development and maintenance of Washington, DC's telephone network by the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company (C&P) in the first half of the twentieth century. The warehouse is also representative of fireproof, concrete warehouse design and construction of the early twentieth century. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.
Historian:	Justine Christianson, HAER, 2008-2009
Project Information:	The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) is part of Heritage Documentation Programs (Richard O'Connor, Manager), which is a division of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse Recording Project was undertaken in 2008 when the Smithsonian Institution moved out of the building. Christopher H. Marston, HAER Architect, managed the project. Justine Christianson, HAER Historian, wrote the historical report. Jet Lowe and Renee Bieretz produced the large format photographs in September 2008. Special thanks to Lori Dempsey, Smithsonian Institution, Office of Exhibits Central (OEC), for facilitating the project.

[1] Information on current plans from the Washington, DC, Economic Partnership website, available at http://www.wdcep.com/dev_record.php?devId=1089, accessed November 2009.

Part I: Historical Information

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of Construction: The C&P Telephone Company Warehouse was constructed from 1926-27, with major additions made to the structure from 1950-51.[2]

2. Architect/Engineer: Bevan Jones, associate architect with the New York architecture firm McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin, designed the warehouse and oversaw its construction along with C.A. Robinson, chief engineer of C&P Telephone Company.[3] Jones was a civil engineer who received a degree from Cornell University in 1906.[4] McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin (made up of architects Andrew C. McKenzie, Stephen Francis Voorhees, and Paul Gmelin) were known for their work designing buildings for telephone companies, typically in the Italian Romanesque style. In fact, during the 1910s, 80 percent of their work was estimated to come from telephone companies. Perhaps their best known building is the 1926 Barclay-Vesey Building, an Art Deco building constructed for the New York Telephone Company. McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin established a branch office in Washington, DC, at 1343 H Street, NW, in 1924. *The Washington Post* reported the company was "attracted to Washington by the steady growth and building activity," but it was more likely the rapid expansion of the C&P Telephone Company during this period that prompted the opening of the office.[5]

McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin (later Voorhees, Gmelin & Walker) worked with the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company to create a "national corporate image." As the National Register nomination for the warehouse points out, the company "advertised the importance of its corporate and local image, stating that a 'lot of thought goes into designing buildings that reflect the spirit and purpose' of the telephone company."[6] As a result of this ethos, "C&P's plant engineers considered the requirements of each unit assigned to the building and made

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[2] Construction dates based on building permit research conducted at the Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC, and Krista S. Gebbia and Laura V. Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, February 2006.

[3] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 10.

[4] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Pages 8 and 10.

[5] Information on McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin from Christopher S. Gray, "McKenzie, Voorhees and Gmelin," in *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects*, ed. Adolf K. Placzek, vol. 3 (New York: The Free Press, 1982), pp. 139-140; "Architects Set Up Branch Office Here," *The Washington Post*, August 24, 1924, p. W1.

[6] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 9.

provision for future as well as present requirements" when designing the building.[7]

3. Builder/Contractor/Supplier: Charles H. Tompkins Company is listed as the contractor for the initial construction of the building.[8]

4. Original Plans: The permit for construction of the warehouse, bounded by Pierce, North Capitol, and L streets, NE, gives the overall dimension of the building as 223'-3" x 229'-6", but the list of dimensions gives the front as 223'-3", the rear as 273'-3", and the depth as 248'-2". As originally constructed, the building encompassed 160,800 square feet with a paved yard totaling 17,800 square feet.[9]

The 1928 Sanborn Map notes the warehouse was of fireproof construction, with concrete floors, frame, roof and curtain walls.[10] The building was equipped with automatic sprinklers, and a water tank sat on the roof. Fireproof doors on each level opened to the stair towers. The northern half of the first floor, fronting Pierce Street, contained a private 100-vehicle garage and a gas tank. The southern half of the building, facing North Capitol and L streets, contained a warehouse with a shipping room and office on the first floor's west wall. Offices were located on the upper floors, and Western Electric occupied the third floor.[11]

5. Alterations/Additions: Various repairs and alterations were made to the building throughout its operational history as evidenced in building permit applications. The first major additions were undertaken from 1950 to 1951 by Western Electric and included a one-story brick addition located at the southeast corner of the building with eight garage openings to accommodate trucks on the L Street façade. Other renovations included constructing a concrete loading dock and enclosing garage openings on North Capitol Street to create more warehouse space.[12]

B. Historical Context:

Early History of the Telephone in Washington, DC

George C. Maynard, who owned an electrical supply store in Washington, DC, at 1423 6th Street, NW, and was also a telegraphist and electrician, is credited for running the first telephone lines in the city from 1877 to 1878. These lines extended from his office to

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[7] Joseph H. Cromwell, *The C&P Story: Service in Action, Washington DC* (Washington, DC: C&P Telephone Company, 1981), pp. 40-41.
[8] The foreman's name is listed as "Backus." See Building Permit No. 7613, March 20, 1926.
[9] Building Permit No. 7613, March 20, 1926; "New Phone Building Will House Shops," *The Washington Post*, June 12, 1927, p. R11.
[10] The concrete roof was topped with gravel and tar according to Building Permit No. 7613.
[11] "The Sanborn Building and Property Atlas of Washington, DC," Book 1, Vol. 4 (1928), sheet 437.
[12] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 7, Page 4, and Section 8, Page 13

various sites, such as the U.S. Capitol and the offices of the *Evening Star* newspaper.[13] On April 22, 1878, Maynard was able to "secure from Gardiner C. Hubbard, Trustee of the patents of Dr. Bell, an exclusive license to use, and to lease to others for use, Bell telephone."[14] Maynard then established The National Telephone Exchange.[15] To build up support for his endeavor, Maynard offered to install telephones on a trial basis. On December 1, 1879, an agreement was made between Maynard, company treasurer W.H. Barnard, and the National Bell Telephone Company transferring The National Telephone Exchange's business to the National Capital Telephone Company, which had formed in the fall of 1879. By then, there were 400 telephones and four switchboards in use in Washington, DC.[16] In 1883, the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company "operating under the Bell Telephone system, was incorporated under the laws of New York by consolidating the National Capital Telephone Company and the Telephone Exchange Company of Maryland."[17]

By 1898, there were more than 2,000 phones in use in the city, which had increased to 8,000 in 1902. Increasing numbers of subscribers (in 1905 there were 40,000) resulted in the C&P Telephone Company embarking on its first major building campaign in which six new branch exchanges and a warehouse, followed by central offices, were constructed.[18] The increase was the result of higher numbers of local and international telephone calls being made due to Washington, DC's central role in World War I. The presence of the federal government in Washington, DC, provided the impetus for the establishment of telephone lines in the city much earlier than the rest of the country.[19]

In 1927, *The Washington Post* reported that for every 3.5 people there was one telephone, making Washington, DC, "one of the leading cities in telephone development in the world." The *Post* went on to note, "the city is now served by 10 central office and 138,000 telephones, an increase of 127 per cent in telephone stations in the last ten years."[20] The C&P Telephone Company reported a staggering 70 percent increase in telephone use during the 1920s. As a result of the growth in telephone use and the

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[13] "About the Telephone: First Exchange Established Here in 1879," *Star* [Washington, DC], December 16, 1902, np, available in "Telephone, C&P" Vertical File, Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC; Cromwell, *The C&P Story: Service in Action, Washington DC*, p. 2; Ralph A. Van Orsdel, "History of the Telephone System in the District of Columbia," in *Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, DC, 1946-1947*, ed. H. Paul Caemmerer, vol. 47-48 (Washington, DC: Columbia Historical Society, 1949), p. 171; Kimberly Prothro Williams, "Telecommunications Resources of Washington, DC 1877-1954," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, June 2006, Section E, Page 2.

[14] Van Orsdel, "History of the Telephone System in the District of Columbia," p. 171.

[15] Van Orsdel, "History of the Telephone System in the District of Columbia," pp. 173-174. George C. Maynard was the General Manager, while W.H. Barnard was the Treasurer of the company.

[16] Van Orsdel, "History of the Telephone System in the District of Columbia," pp. 174-175.

[17] Williams, "Telecommunication Resources of Washington, DC," Section E, Page 4.

[18] C&P's construction of exchanges and other support buildings is outside the scope of this project, but is clearly delineated by Kimberly Prothro Williams in "Telecommunications Resources of Washington, DC 1877-1954," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, June 2006, Section E.

[19] "About the Telephone," np; Williams, "Telecommunication Resources of Washington, DC," Section E, Pages 6 and 9.

[20] "Telephone Growth in Capital Places City with Leaders," *The Washington Post*, April 3, 1927, p. M14.

introduction of the dial telephone system, the C&P Telephone Company embarked upon another building campaign in the 1920s, which included the construction of the warehouse on North Capitol Street.[21] The warehouse "was a conscious attempt by the telephone company to alleviate the enormous demands for telephone service that commenced during World War I and continued throughout the 1920s as technological achievements augmented interest for both local and international calling."[22]

North Capitol Street Warehouse

The architectural firm of McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin designed the warehouse and "chose to reflect the classical impulses of Washington, DC combined with modest traces of Art Deco" in the otherwise utilitarian building.[23] The warehouse at 1111 North Capitol Street opened in 1927 and had the distinction of being the company's largest building at the time.[24] The fire-resistant, concrete building housed several hundred employees, 60 percent of whom worked for C&P Telephone Company while the remaining 40 percent were employed by Western Electric. Construction of the warehouse was originally estimated to cost $500,000, but the final cost of construction ended up totaling more than $800,000 (including the cost of land).[25]

The warehouse housed a variety of functions. The first floor contained the garage for maintaining the company's fleet of 100 vehicles dispatched to build and maintain the telephone network. The machine shop, cabinet maker's shop, finishing shop where the vehicles were painted, and blacksmith shop and forge were also located on the first floor. The repair shops for overhauling components of the telephone system were on the second floor. A 1927 building permit reveals that various machines like air compressors, drills, blowers, screwing machines and generators were used to repair the equipment. Western Electric Company used a portion of the second floor for "light" storage. The third floor housed the offices and shops of the Western Electric Company. The shops were equipped with motor-driven fans in 1930 and eight motors to drive wood cutting machinery in 1931. P.G. Burton, the general plant supervisor, had offices on the fourth floor. There was also a cafeteria and restrooms for the company's female employees on that floor. Male employees had access to lunch and smoking rooms in the basement and on the second and fourth floors.[26] C&P Telephone Company also held expositions to

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[21] Williams, "Telecommunications Resources of Washington, DC 1877-1954," Section E, Pages 10-11; "Telephone Growth in Capital Places City with Leaders," p. M14.

[22] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 5.

[23] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 8.

[24] Originally, the address was 1115 North Capitol as evidenced in building permits.

[25] "New Phone Building Will House Shops," *The Washington Post*, June 12, 1927, p. R11; Cromwell, *The C&P Story: Service in Action, Washington DC*, pp. 40-41.

[26] See Building Permit #8151, April 12, 1927; Building Permit No. 131477, March 25, 1930; and Building Permit No. 148117, November 5, 1931; New Phone Building Will House Shops"; "Newest Telephone Building Occupied," *Evening Star* [Washington, DC], June 11, 1927, p. 19. Seal & Company won the contract for several of these machinery installation projects. "New Phone Building Will House Shops"; "Newest Telephone Building Occupied," *Evening Star* [Washington, DC], June 11, 1927, p. 19.

advertise new products on the fourth floor. A 1931 advertisement in *The Washington Post* noted a "Telephone Equipment Exposition" would be held at the warehouse, allowing the interested public to "see the latest thing in telephone equipment demonstrated."[27]

In March 1954, Western Electric bought a 19-acre lot on South Hayes Street in Arlington, Virginia, from Morris Cafritz and Charles H. Tompkins with plans of constructing a distribution center to service the region, encompassing the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. From 1946 to 1956 the number of phones used in the area doubled to nearly 2,780,000, highlighting the need for a larger warehouse. The contract was awarded to Baltimore Contractors Inc., who started construction in 1956. The resulting $4 million building was the largest of thirty such Western Electric warehouses in the country. The 448,000 square foot, two-story warehouse employed 750 to 800 people and was used for both storage and shipping. Although their new warehouse was originally intended simply to supplement the North Capitol Street warehouse, the older one closed, and operations were consolidated in the Arlington location in August 1958.[28]

After Western Electric and C&P Telephone Company vacated the North Capitol Street warehouse, it housed John I. Thompson Company (a research engineer and management consultant firm) from 1960 to 1964 and then the Government Printing Office from 1967 to 1973. From 1977 until the summer of 2008, the Smithsonian Institution used the building for warehouse and office space for its exhibits staff. In 2005, WB/BFP North Capitol Street, LLC, affiliated with J Street Development, bought the building. Three years later, in July 2008, National Public Radio (NPR) closed on its purchase of the building. Plans for the renovation of the building include demolishing a portion of the structure but retaining the North Capitol and Pierce Street facades and creating a headquarters for NPR, complete with a newsroom. The redevelopment will also include a museum detailing the history of the telephone and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as retail space.[29]

Warehouse Architecture

The C&P Telephone Company Warehouse has a flat-slab frame, in which the "floor slab rests directly on the columns and behaves somewhat like a continuous beam, bending down like an umbrella around the columns and like a saucer in intermediate areas." Robert Maillart, a Swiss engineer, invented this framing method in 1900, and Claude A. P. Turner then obtained a patent for it in the United States in 1908. Flat-slab framing is

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[27] Advertisement, *The Washington Post*, December 16, 1931, p. 20; Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 8.

[28] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 13; "Phone Supply Center for Area," *The Washington Post*, March 11, 1954, p. 10; "Big Distribution Center in Arlington," *The Washington Post*, December 5, 1956.

[29] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 14; for information on the proposed development, see Washington, DC Economic Partnership, 1111 North Capitol Street, available at http://www.wdcep.com/dev_record.php?devID=1089, accessed November 2009.

exemplified by the use of the mushroom column, "a conical spreading out of the cross-sectional area to reduce the concentration of shearing stress around the circular disc where the slab meets the column."[30] In the warehouse, the mushroom columns are located on every floor at regular intervals and decrease in width on the upper floors.

The building is also typical of early twentieth-century warehouse design and fireproofing techniques as evidenced in the use of concrete as the predominant building material, stairs enclosed in separate concrete stair towers and accessed from each floor by fireproof doors, and steel frame windows. As the National Register nomination notes,

> by the 1920s, steel windows like those at the C&P Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility, were considered a necessity in a functional industrial design. The window openings typically included at least twenty lights with a pivot, awning or hopper sash at the bottom or in the center. The types of windows and their configuration often were indicative of the building's purpose, with large expanses of glass used on manufacturing facilities to provide ample light and ventilation.[31]

Furthermore, the warehouse exemplifies Washington, DC's industrial architecture, which typically "exhibit[s] diluted architectural styles." In the case of the C&P Telephone Company warehouse, the style can be characterized as diluted Art Deco.[32]

Part II: Structural/Design Information

A. General Description[33]: The concrete warehouse is bounded by Pierce, North Capitol and L streets, NE. The main section of the building fronts Pierce and North Capitol streets and stands four stories tall. A three-story wing extends from the rear of the main section and fronts Pierce Street. These two sections of the building form an ell, which has been filled in by a brick addition dating to 1950-51. A one-and-a-half story brick section of unknown date wraps around the south and east elevation of the main block, but has been partially obscured by the later 1951 addition.

The main section extends ten bays along North Capitol Street and five bays on Pierce Street. The bays are separated by square pilasters. Fenestration on the main, west façade (facing North Capitol Street) is regular and consists of paired, multi-light steel frame windows on the end bays and tripled multi-light steel frame windows elsewhere. The first floor windows are multi-light steel-frame windows covered by metal screens. In

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[30] Carl W. Condit, *American Building: Materials and Techniques from the First Colonial Settlements to the Present* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1968), 243.
[31] Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Pages 10-11.
[32] This was observed in the March 1991, DC Warehouse Survey Project and discussed in Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility," Section 8, Page 11.
[33] The description of current conditions is based on site visits made during 2008 as well as floor plans created by the Smithsonian Institution, then occupant of the building.

keeping with the utilitarian nature of the structure and the tendency to pare down architectural styles for warehouses in Washington, DC, there is minimal decorative detailing. The recessed main entrance, located on North Capitol Street, exhibits some Art Deco decorative details. These include a stepped concrete door surround with travertine trim and a transom light covered by a metal grille with a decorative zigzag pattern. In addition, stepped concrete parapets are located at the tops of the end bays.

The Pierce Street façade, facing north, consists of the main section of the building extending five bays, followed by the three-story wing with a four-story stair tower at the corner. The main section has two garage entrances still in use while a third has been converted to a single entrance. Extant bollards flanking the garage openings are stamped "Caroline Foundry Co., Balto, Md." The fenestration consists of paired and tripled multi-light, steel frame windows. Metal screens cover the first floor windows.

The L Street (south) façade, consists of a one-story brick addition with a flat roof that wraps around the south and east façade of the main section. The portion of this addition on the east façade is no longer visible because the 1950-51 one-and-a-half story brick addition with a flat roof is now located to the south and east of the main building. Garage openings are located along the south façade.

The description of the interior space is based on a site visit made in 2008 before the Smithsonian Institution moved out of the building. The interior was generally characterized by open space, aside from concrete mushroom columns. These columns decreased in width on the upper floors and were located nearly 29' apart on the east-west axis and about 21' on the north-south axis. The floors were concrete. The exterior walls were punctuated by windows that provided a great deal of natural light and angular concrete half columns were located at regular intervals between the windows. The windows were generally steel framed, multi-light factory windows that were paired or tripled. Radiators powered by boilers in the basement heated the building.

The main entrance to the building opened into a small lobby on the first floor with access to the upper floors provided by stairs and an elevator. The first floor housed a number of functions. The central corridor of the building extending from the lobby east contained a number of small rooms, including a break room, restrooms, lunchroom, and conference room. The rest of the first floor was made up of large open space minimally divided into discrete spaces by fencing or other temporary dividers. The half of the building facing L Street contained mail services, storage space, and a loading dock with shipping/receiving space behind from west to east. The loading dock and shipping/receiving space was located in the 1950-51 addition of the building. The half of the building facing Pierce Street consisted of open space with two offices. The first floor concrete mushroom support columns were generally 30" in diameter.

The second floor housed the Smithsonian Institution libraries, research annex, and Preservation lab in the half of the floor facing North Capitol Street while the rest of the

floor was used as storage space. The mushroom columns on the second floor were about 28" in diameter and stood about 13'-5" tall.

The Smithsonian Office of Exhibits Central (OEC) used the third floor for designing exhibits, with separate spaces for model making, collection storage, design and editing, graphics, fabrication, and administrative offices. The fabrication shop at the rear of the building, facing Pierce and 1st streets, was located in the three-story section of the building. The roof of this section was equipped with four rectangular skylights measuring approximately 36' x 14'-2" that were clustered over the fabrication shop. The framed skylights had hipped roofs of glass and were covered by a raised framework on which screening had been installed. A clerestory consisting of two-light windows ran along each façade of the skylight. These windows could be opened from the inside to ventilate the interior space. The exterior end walls of each skylight were clad in copper and equipped with copper gutters. A fifth skylight of similar construction and measuring 7' x 9' was located to the south of the others over the Sheet Plastic Shop. The third floor columns measured a little more than 2' in diameter (approximately 26").

The fourth floor, located only in that section of the building fronting North Capitol Street, was used for storage and the Office of Protection Services Training. The mushroom columns were about 24" in diameter.

The warehouse had two basements, designated the upper and lower. The lower basement contained the mechanicals required to heat the building as well as remnants of the operational machinery used by the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. See Section C. Mechanicals for additional information.

A Peelle freight elevator (running between the second and fourth floors) and a passenger elevator provided access between floors. The concrete elevator house for the passenger elevator was located on the roof of the four-story section of the building and contained the Otis machine that ran the elevator. The structure was lighted by paired, nine-light steel frame windows. In addition to the elevators, there were two concrete stair towers, one at the northeast corner and the other at the southeast corner, that extended to the roof.

The flat roof of the three- and four-story section of the building was clad in a rubber membrane. A concrete parapet encircled both the four-story and three-story sections. In addition to the elevator house and stair tower houses, a water tower and brick stack were located on the roof of the four-story section of the building.

1. Character: Although the interior of the building had been reconfigured from its original arrangement to suit the needs of the Smithsonian Institution, the basic character of the building remained, including the mushroom support columns, steel frame windows, and open interior spaces.

2. Condition of Fabric: The building suffered from a lack of maintenance. Although structurally sound, the interior finishes were in fair to poor condition.

B. Construction: The building permit for the initial construction of the building included a series of daily reports covering the building activity. These reports reveal that the contractor first poured the footings in early spring. By May, the basement walls were being poured, followed by erecting the formwork and steel frames and pouring the concrete for the first floor in June. The contractor systematically completed each floor throughout the summer, ending with the roof in September. During the fall, the contractor installed the riveted steel supports for the towers and elevator. Barger & Ross supplied the structural steel.[34]

C. Mechanicals: The lower basement contained a variety of mechanicals, including an incinerator with a name plate: "Rubbish Destructor, Designed and Constructed by Morse-Boulger Destructor Co., New York NY." Pumps manufactured by Chicago Pump Company and two boilers manufactured by General Boilers of Waukegan, Illinois, were also located in the lower basement. In addition, remnants of operational machinery from the building's use by the C&P Telephone Company were in place.

D. Site Information: The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse is located on about 1.56 acres and is bounded by Pierce Street on the north, North Capitol Street on the west, and L Street on the south.[35]

Part III: Sources of Information:

A. Primary Sources:

"About the Telephone: First Exchange Established Here in 1879." *Star* [Washington, DC], December 16, 1902.

Advertisement. *The Washington Post*, December 16, 1931, p. 20.

"Architects Set Up Branch Office Here." *The Washington Post*, August 24, 1924, p. W1.

"Big Distribution Center in Arlington." *The Washington Post*, December 5, 1956.

Building Permits, available at Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC:

March 11, 1926, Building Permit No. 7323, excavation
March 12, 1926, Building Permit No. 7328, storage
March 12, 1926, Building Permit No. 7329, store material
March 19, 1926, Building Permit No. 7545, store material
March 20, 1926, Building Permit No. 7613, warehouse construction
February 21, 1927, Building Permit No. 6571, motor

[34] See Building Permit No. 7613.
[35] Acreage from Gebbia and Trieschmann, "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility."

April 12, 1927, Building Permit No. 8151, motor
April 22, 1927, Building Permit No. 8661, motor
November 11, 1927, Building Permit No. 2916, sign
December 16, 1927, Building Permit No. 5027, shed
August 7, 1929, Building Permit No. 126105, motor
December 19, 1929, Building Permit No. 129671, shed
March 25, 1930, Building Permit No. 131477, motor
November 5, 1931, Building Permit No. 148117, motor
December 10, 1931, Building Permit No. 148971, sign
March 2, 1932, Building Permit No. 151782, motor
July 7, 1932, Building Permit No. 155184, elevator
July 31, 1935, Building Permit No. 183055, repairs
September 26, 1936, Building Permit No. 195713, repairs
November 2, 1936, Building Permit No. 196952, elevator
October 23, 1939, Building Permit No. 227387, tank
July 1, 1939, Building Permit No. 245187, 245188, repair
July 15, 1949, Building Permit No. 262249, repair
December 31, 1943, Building Permit No. 266047, repair
November 3, 1944, Building Permit No. 274624, addition
July 19, 1945, Building Permit No. 279006, repair
August 6, 1945, Building Permit No. 3707, plumbing
June 8, 1948, Building Permit No. 307719, miscellaneous
May 22, 1948, Building Permit No. 308327, miscellaneous
July 22, 1949, Building Permit No. 44680, plumbing
September 13, 1950, Building Permit No. A-12481, A-12482
October 11, 1950, Building Permit No. A-16698, plumbing
October 20, 1950, Building Permit No. A-13867, miscellaneous
November 9, 1950, Building Permit No. A-14923, repair
December 1, 1950, Building Permit No. A-18884, plumbing
December 29, 1950, Building Permit No. A-15885, repair
February 23, 1951, Building Permit No. A-17224, repair
December 20, 1951, Building Permit No. A-32162

"New Phone Building Will House Shops." *The Washington Post*, June 12, 1927, p. R11.

"Newest Telephone Building Occupied." *Evening Star* [Washington, DC], June 11, 1927, p. 19.

"Phone Supply Center for Area." *The Washington Post*, March 11, 1954, p. 10.

"The Sanborn Building and Property Atlas of Washington, DC." Book 1, Vol. 4 (1928), Sheet 437.

"Telephone, C&P," vertical file. Available at Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC.

"Telephone Growth in Capital Places City with Leaders." *The Washington Post*, April 3, 1927, p. M14.

B. Secondary Sources:

Condit, Carl W. *American Building: Materials and Techniques from the First Colonial Settlements to the Present.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1968.

Cromwell, Joseph H. *The C&P Story: Service in Action, Washington DC.* Washington, DC: C&P Telephone Company, 1981.

Gebbia, Krista and Laura V. Trieschmann, EHT Traceries, Inc. "Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Warehouse and Repair Facility." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, February 2006.

Gray, Christopher S. "McKenzie, Voorhees and Gmelin." In *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects*, ed. Adolf K. Placzek, vol. 3. New York: The Free Press, 1982.

Martin, Oliver. *The Chesapeake and Potomac Country.* The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, 1928. [The volume mostly contains articles that appeared in *The Transmitter*, a C&P employee magazine describing the parts of the area served by the C&P. A chapter entitled: "Development of the Telephone in the Chesapeake and Potomac Country," pp. 295-312 is repeated almost verbatim in the Van Orsdel article.]

Van Orsdel, Ralph A. "History of the Telephone System in the District of Columbia," ed. H. Paul Caemmerer. *Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, DC, 1946-1947.* Volumes 48-49. Washington, DC: Columbia Historical Society, 1949.

Williams, Kimberly Prothro. "Telecommunications Resources of Washington, D.C., 1877-1954." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, June 2006.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

The company records of McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin (now HLW) may contain the original drawings and information related to the design of the warehouse. However, their location is unknown at this time.